

NOSHA FACEBOOK GROUP “HOUSE RULES”

Group Purpose

The objective of the NOSHA Facebook group is to enable a free exchange of information, opinions and ideas among NOSHA members and interested non-members. By its very nature, an atheist/humanist/ secular group will be a center of controversial debate. This will include criticism and derision of religion, religious ideas and acts, or prominent figures of any given faith. However, amidst this discussion and debate, members are still expected to adhere to humanist principles, respecting each other and avoiding prejudice or abuse. Following these guidelines can ensure we have interesting, entertaining, and productive interactions, even disagreements, while still being respectful toward each other.

Authority

Facebook’s Terms of Service ultimately govern all interactions in this space. Beyond that, the administrators of this group are entitled to deny entry to anyone they choose, and to revoke admission to members who don’t comply with the house rules. We also reserve the right to remove any posts or comments at our discretion. You participate at your own risk, and assume personal responsibility for all posts and comments created with your account. You are responsible for reading and following these guidelines.

Reporting

All members are asked to immediately report any disruptive activity, inflammatory comments, or other violations of these guidelines to the group admins via private message. Please do not engage with abusive individuals or trolls within the forum; this pollutes the page and impedes the fruitful discussion we hope to maintain here. Just report the problematic behavior to admins and let them handle it.

Group admins may be identified by clicking “Members,” then “All Members” and choosing “Admins” from the drop-down list.

Posting Rules

The following are prohibited in this group:

1. Personal attacks. You are welcome to challenge others points of view and opinions, but you may not attack the person him/herself or his/her friends and family members.
2. Any posts or comments that harass, threaten or abuse another member.
3. Hateful or discriminatory comments regarding race, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity are prohibited.
4. Explicit pornography or disturbingly graphic violence, or links to such.
5. Discussion of illegal activity
6. Violation of other people’s privacy by publishing their personal information, or photographs/videos of them, without their express permission.
7. “Trolling”, or posting deliberately disruptive statements meant to hijack comment threads, throw discussions off-track, or deliberately provoke anger as a goal in itself.
8. Spam, link baiting or files containing viruses that could damage the operation of other people’s computers or mobile devices

9. “Sock puppetry” – the use of false identities to create the illusion of praise or defense of a person, to circumvent a suspension or ban from this group, to impersonate another individual, or for any other deceptive purpose. Sock puppets will be summarily removed from the group.
10. Posting on behalf of any banned member.
11. Reposts of deleted comments, or posts that draw attention to the fact that a group admin has deleted your comment.
12. Derogatory comments regarding the forum and/or disagreements with the decisions or actions of the administrators. Please feel free to message the group admins directly rather than air your dirty laundry in public.

Sanctions

The administrators are empowered to perform any actions they deem fit to protect the integrity of this discussion group. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Warning of users where they breach the rules
- Removal or editing of posts or comments
- Removal of a participant from the group, either temporarily, or permanently where required.

Bans are the last resort, however they are occasionally required to keep the group a place for the majority to enjoy.

Polite requests for reconsideration of bans may be entertained after 6 months, but members have no absolute right to participation in this private group, and the decisions of administrators are final.